

Claims

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. An apparatus comprising:
 - a) an injector configured to inject a solution into a meat product; and
 - b) a compressor aligned with said injector, so that when said meat product injected with said solution is passed through said compressor said solution is at least partially recovered.
- 10 2. The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a conveyor belt between said injector and said compressor, so that said meat product can be conveyed from said injector to said compressor.
- 15 3. The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a reservoir for collecting said solution recovered from said meat product.
4. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said injector is selected from the group consisting of manifold injectors and pressure injectors.
- 20 5. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said compressor comprises at least one roller bar so that when said meat product is caused to pass said at least one roller bar said meat product is compressed.
- 25 6. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said compressor comprises at least one planar surface operably linked to a piston, wherein operation of said piston causes said planar surface to compress said meat product.
7. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said meat product is a pork belly.
- 30 8. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said solution is a brine solution.
9. A system for recovering injection solution from injected meat products comprising
 - a) an injector, wherein said injector configured to inject meat products with an injection solution; and
 - 35 b) a compressor, wherein said compressor is configured to compress said meat product to cause at least partial expulsion of said injection solution from said meat product.

10. The system of Claim 9, further comprising a designated pathway for conveying said meat product.

11. The system of Claim 10, wherein said compressor is downstream of said injector on said designated pathway.

12. The system of Claim 9, further comprising a reservoir for collecting said injection solution.

13. The system of Claim 12, wherein said reservoir is in fluid communication with said injector so that said injection solution can be recycled.

14. The system of Claim 9, wherein said injector is selected from the group consisting of manifold injectors and pressure injectors.

15. The system of Claim 9, wherein said compressor comprises at least one roller bar so that when said meat product is caused to pass said at least one roller bar said meat product is compressed.

16. The system of Claim 9, wherein said compressor comprises at least one planar surface operably linked to a piston, wherein operation of said piston causes said planar surface to compress said meat product.

17. A method for recovering injection solution from a meat product comprising

- a) providing
 - i) a meat product; and
 - ii) an injection solution;
- b) injecting said meat product with said injection solution to provide an injected meat product;
- c) mechanically treating said injected meat product under conditions such that said injection solution is at least partially expelled from said meat product; and
- d) hanging said injected meat product.

18. The method of Claim 17, wherein said meat product is a pork belly.

b) injecting said meat product via said injector with said injection solution to provide an injected meat product;

c) mechanically treating said meat product to recover at least a portion of said injection solution from said injected meat product via said injector solution return unit to

5 provide recovered injection solution; and

d) reusing said recovered injection solution.

28. A meat product produced by the method of Claim 17.